



↑ **Wayne Heimer**, *Alaska Fish and Game: the Good, the Bad and the In Between*

Wayne Heimer was born on a dry-land farm in what was geographically northeastern Colorado, but culturally it was Nebraska, and ecologically more like Kansas. He grew up as a "small-town farm boy," got undergraduate degrees in biology and chemistry with a minor in math at the University of Northern Colorado. His further academic training was graduate schooling (master's program at Washington State Univ. in zoology/molecular biology) and doctoral program (University of Alaska in environmental physiology) in the post-Sputnik era. By either chance or providence, Wayne then "jumped disciplines" to work with populations, communities and ecosystems as Alaska's Dall sheep research biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. During the 25.4 years Wayne worked there, he pioneered factoring animal behavior into harvest management, has published hundreds of both technical and non-technical articles, and his work is estimated to have generated approximately 100 million dollars for the state of Alaska through increased sheep hunting opportunities for residents and nonresidents alike over the last 20 years. Wayne also spent five years backgrounding Alaska's lawsuits against the federal government for usurping Alaska's management prerogatives. He sued the state of Alaska to stop wildlife initiatives, and when that failed, he conceived the legislation which eliminated "ballot box management" in Alaska. He remains active in Dall sheep management, state-federal issues, is considered one of the remaining historical references (i.e. living fossils) regarding the history of wildlife management in Alaska. Wayne is respected for seeing the "big picture," and knows how things came to be as they are in Alaska. He's interested in almost everything, excluding most board games and cribbage.